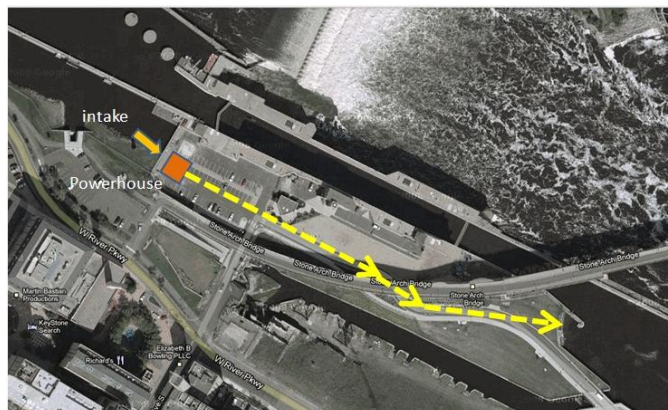




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Miscellaneous: Hydropower, Crown Hydro, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Proposed Crown Hydropower at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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Location/Description

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued license 11175 to Crown Hydro, LLC, in 1999 which granted it the exclusive rights to develop a hydropower facility in the Mill Ruins Park area on the Mississippi River near Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Crown Hydro Project was originally proposed to be located in the Crown Roller Building and then, later, on Minneapolis park land. Crown Hydro was unable to secure the needed real estate agreements with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. In 2013, Crown Hydro made a proposal to locate the project on Corps-managed Government land at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. The total 3.4-megawatt estimated capacity would be enough to provide power to more than 2,300 households.

Background

The project is located in the St. Anthony Falls Historic District. The FERC license requires the licensee to

determine impacts on the historic district. Many parties are competing for use of the river flows above St. Anthony Falls, including the existing hydropower plant operated by Xcel Energy and other recreation and navigation interests.

Status

The proposed hydropower facility will consist of an operations building housing two 1.7-megawatt turbines installed below ground level which will discharge via a 16-foot diameter conduit into the Mississippi River. The intake structure for the proposed hydropower plant is located behind the upper guide wall of Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. River conditions will allow the project to operate approximately 60 percent of the time. The project will draw up to 1,000 cubic feet per second of flow from the river.

Crown Hydropower held a public meeting on November 26, 2013. FERC has given Crown Hydropower until 30 April 2015 to submit a draft license amendment. The license amendment will undergo Corps and other agency and stakeholder review prior to FERC action.

Pertinent correspondence, filings and meeting transcripts are posted on the FERC eLibrary under docket number P-11175 (<http://elibrary.ferc.gov>).

Authority

Licensing by the FERC of hydropower facilities is governed by Part I of the Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791(a) – 825(r). Licensing at Corps of Engineers facilities is also governed by a 1981 memorandum of understanding between FERC and the Department of the Army.

Fiscal

A fixed amount, generally \$7,000 per year, is funded under the “Investigations” account for FERC-related administrative activities and permit review. Activities such as pre-licensing, coordination during construction and relicensing are funded under the “Operation and Maintenance” program, and these costs are reimbursed by the licensee to the U.S. Treasury through annual charges by FERC.